

# FLASH

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POWER OUTAGE



**FLASH**<sup>®</sup>  
FEDERAL ALLIANCE FOR SAFE HOMES

# Power Outage

Whether a power outage in your home is caused by grid failure or severe weather, you can take the following steps to safely prepare and respond. Remember to include power outages in your family disaster plan.

- Keep extra cash on hand since an extended power outage may prevent you from withdrawing money from automatic teller machines or banks.
- Keep a supply of non-perishable foods, medicine, baby supplies and pet food as appropriate on hand. Allow one gallon of water per person per day for a minimum three-day supply.
- Avoid opening the fridge or freezer. Food should be safe as long as the outage lasts no more than four to six hours.
- Have one or more coolers for cold food storage in case power outage is prolonged. Perishable foods should not be stored for more than two hours above 40 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Have an emergency power supply for anyone dependent on medical equipment requiring electricity.
- Keep a supply of flashlights, batteries, and a battery-powered radio on hand.
- Do not use candles as they pose a fire hazard.
- Connect only individual appliances to portable generators and never plug a generator into wall outlets. Plugging generators into the home's electrical system can feed electricity back into the power lines and endanger you and line workers.
- Use gas-powered generators only in well-ventilated outdoor areas.
- When driving, be careful at intersections – traffic lights may be out, creating a dangerous situation.
- Turn off any electrical equipment that was in use prior to the power outage, but leave one light on to alert you when power resumes.
- Check on elderly neighbors, friends or relatives who may need assistance if weather is severe during the outage.
- During a power outage, resist the temptation to call 9-1-1 for information – that's what your battery-powered radio is for.
- Keep your car fuel tank at least half-full (gas stations usually rely on electricity to power their pumps).
- When power is restored, wait a few minutes before turning on major appliances to help eliminate further problems caused by a sharp increase in demand.

Protect your home in a *FLASH* with  
the Federal Alliance for Safe Homes!

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